

## **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)**

Section 104(a) of the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 amended section 11(a)(1) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1759a(a)(1))(the law) to provide an alternative to household applications for free and reduced-price meals in high poverty local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools. This alternative is referred to as the Community Eligibility Provision.

### **Definition of Identified Students**

*Identified Students* are those directly certified or otherwise documented as being categorically eligible for free or reduced-price meals. This primarily includes students who are directly certified for free meals on the basis of their participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). It also includes homeless, runaway and migrant youth in addition to Head Start and pre-k Even Start participants. Foster children certified through means other than an application are also included as well as students certified for free meals based on a letter provided by the household from the SNAP agency. It does NOT include students who are categorically eligible based on the submission of a free and reduced-price application.

To be eligible for CEP, the LEA, School, or Collection of Schools desiring to participate must:

1. Have 40 percent or more of their enrolled students directly certified or documented as categorically eligible by being qualified for free or reduced-price meals without the use of household applications (i.e. *Identified Students*) as of April 1, the year prior to participation. (For School Year 2015-2016 participation, the percentage of *Identified Students* is determined as of April 1, 2015.)
2. Serve all children in the participating schools free breakfasts and free lunches for four successive school years.
3. Pay, from sources other than Federal funds, the costs of serving breakfasts and lunches that are in excess of the Federal assistance received, including Federal cash reimbursement.
4. Not collect free and reduced price applications from households in participating schools during the period of participation in the Community Eligibility option.
5. Count total breakfasts and lunches served to students.
6. NOT be a residential child care institution (RCCI).

Click on the links to see the “near eligible” and “eligible” listing of schools within our state.